

**Captured April 9, 2004; Iraq**



**SPC Keith "Matt" Maupin**  
**U.S. Army Reserve**



**WE'RE WITH YOU MATT; Every day, every hour, every  
minute -- until your safe return home!**  
**Blue Devils!**

88th Regional Readiness Command  
Public Affairs Office  
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# Tribute to our Fallen

## Killed in Action, Operation Iraqi Freedom

Sgt. 1st Class Dan H. Gabrielson, 88th RRC, 652nd Engineer Co., Ellsworth, WI: 9 July 2003, BaQubah, Iraq  
Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Christensen, 88th RRC, 652nd Engineer Co., Marquette, MI: 25 December 2003, BaQubah, Iraq  
Staff Sgt. Stephan C. Hattamer, 88th RRC, 652nd Engineer Co., Marquette, MI: 25 December 2003, BaQubah, Iraq  
Spec. Luke P. Frist, 88th RRC, 209th Quartermaster Co., Lafayette, IN: 5 January 2004 BAMC after MEDEVAC from Ar Ramadi, Iraq  
Pvt. 1st Class Bert E. Hoyer, 88th RRC 652nd Engineer Co., Ellsworth, WI: 10 March 2004, BaQubah, Iraq  
Pvt. 1st Class Gregory R. Goodrich, 88th RRC, 724th Transportation Co., Bartonville, IL: 9 April 2004, Route Cardinal, Iraq  
Sgt. Elmer C. Krause, 88th RRC, 724th Transportation Co., Bartonville, IL: 23 April 2004, Unknown, Iraq  
Sgt. James W. Harlan, 88th RRC, 660th Transportation Co., Cadiz, OH: 14 May 2004, Baghdad, Iraq  
Staff Sgt. Charles A. Kiser, 88th RRC, 330th Military Police Co., Sheboygan, WI: 24 June 2004, Mosul, Iraq  
Staff Sgt. Stephan G. Martin, 88th RRC, 330th Military Police Co., Sheboygan, WI: 1 July 2004, WRAMC after MEDEVAC from Anaconda, Iraq  
Sgt. 1st Class David A. Hartman, 88th RRC 401st Transportation Co., Battle Creek, MI: 17 July 2004, Bayji, Iraq  
Pvt. 1st Class Devin J. Grella, 88th RRC, 706th Transportation Co., Mansfield, OH: 6 September 2004, Baghdad, Iraq  
Spec. Allen D. Nolan, 88th RRC, 660th Transportation Co., Zanesville, OH: 30 September 2004, BAMC after MEDEVAC from Anaconda, Iraq  
Staff Sgt. Richard L. Morgan, Jr., 88th RRC, 660th Transportation Co., Zanesville, OH: 5 October 2004, Latfiyah, Iraq

## Deceased, nonhostile Action Operation Iraqi Freedom

Spec. Roy Buckley, 88th RRC, 685th Transportation Co., Hobart, IN: 22 April 2003, Iraq  
Staff Sgt. Donald N. Davis, 88th RRC, 660th Transportation Co., Zanesville, OH: 24 August 2004, Fallujah, Iraq  
Spec. Charles L. Neeley, 88th RRC, 454th Transportation Co., Columbus, OH: 25 August 2004, Tikrit, Iraq

to make sure all tasks in the detail could be carried out to perfection.

“You only get one chance to do it right,” said Imhoff when talking about the importance of training for funeral honors. “The Soldier is only going to be buried once. How that family remembers the military is up to you. Well-rehearsed, precise, deliberate and sound – or sloppy, unprepared and ‘ate up.’ It’s up to you.”

Cobb, once a funeral honors team leader that is now on the best-of-the-best team the headquarters has, said, “We practice over and over so we do it right the first time. It reinforces the attention to detail and the discipline that is that basis for our military service.”

It’s not always the weather one would hope for when a Soldier is buried. The funeral for one of the 88<sup>th</sup>’s Soldiers who was a casualty of Iraq was buried on what CSM Werner described as a bitterly cold day in Spokane, Wash. It was one of four funerals the team had performed in a seven-day period.

CSM Werner said, “I stood in front of the casket for, I don’t know, 40 – 45 minutes, maybe an hour. It was damn cold.

“Not everyone does the sentinel – the lone Soldier standing guard at the casket. It was something I learned early on in my career and have carried on. It honors that Soldier. The body is never left alone to ensure that nothing happens to the body. It goes right along with never leaving a man behind.”

When the temperature was so low that most everyone runs from their heated cars to the comfort of a climate controlled building as quickly as they can, the funeral honors team and the sentinel stood fast.

“Focus on the family,” Cobb said



**An inverted rifle stand memorializes U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Charles A. Kiser at a service held for him in Sheboygan, Wisc.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Farley  
88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office*

when talking about how he performs in the sometimes harsh weather at a funeral. “Another of the bedrocks of our service is Selfless Service. You don’t focus on yourself. Focus on the family and the honor you want to show to that family. You have to remember that you’re representing the Army and the nation.”

“The act of the funeral has to be executed,” said CSM Werner. “How we honor the dead shines through in how well we perform the honors for a fallen Soldier.”

After having the four funerals in seven days, the CSM brought in all the brigade/group sergeants major. “I told them what was going on, and what needed to be done,” he said. The deadline was given to the sergeants major to have their own teams assembled and trained, and then they were told members of the 88<sup>th</sup>’s team would be sent to validate them.

Master Sgt. Dennis P. Koski, a part of the rifle team on the funeral honors team, said, “It’s not a fun duty,

but it’s the most honorable duty you can do. You’re hailing a salute to a fallen comrade.

“It’s great to see the MSCs (Major Subordinate Commands) are coming on board to assist in this honorable duty. I mean, what’s right? For the higher headquarters to come to your state to bury your Soldier – or for you to bury your Soldiers yourself?”

Koski touched on something that relates to the military way. Just as ‘NCO business is NCO business,’ and most commands try to handle things ‘in house,’ he expressed his full agreement with every MSC taking care of their own – to them now taking on the responsibility and being more intimate with the care of their fallen.

Death does not take away the difference that a Soldier has made on the world. In the closing comments of his “The Soldier’s Faith” Speech of 1895, Oliver Wendell Holmes’ had this to say, “As for us, our days of combat are over. Our swords are rust. Our guns will thunder no more. The vultures that once wheeled over our heads must be buried with their prey. Whatever of glory must be won in the council or the closet, never again in the field. I do not repine. We have shared the incommunicable experience of war; we have felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top.”

“We try to reflect and honor the passion of life that Soldier possessed with full military honors, hence funeral honors,” said Koski.

Making it abundantly clear that he wanted every 88<sup>th</sup> Soldier and family member to know this, CSM Werner said, “A Soldier that has made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, having died in battle or not – every Soldier of the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC will be buried by 88<sup>th</sup> Soldiers – wherever and whenever the family chooses.”



the commitment every Soldier has made to better themselves and the world they live in.

“When we got the pre-war projections for the number of casualties that would be sustained in Iraq, we knew we had to get people trained up for funeral honors detail,” said CSM John S. Werner, command sergeant major of the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC.

The 88<sup>th</sup> had to be prepared for the grim reality that some of its Soldiers might not return to home station. “It’s something we hope and pray never happens. The reality of war dictates that it will. We as Soldiers must be prepared for that,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffrey L. Imhoff, the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of training the 88<sup>th</sup>’s Funeral Honors Team.

CSM Werner charged Imhoff, the NCOIC of the 88<sup>th</sup>’s color guard, with the duty of assembling and training four funeral honors teams from the headquarters of the 88<sup>th</sup> at Fort Snelling, Minn.

The CSM went on to say, “Imhoff was the NCOIC of the color guard, so I just naturally turned to him to have the teams put together. All I did was tell him what I wanted and it was done. That’s my role as a senior NCO.

I have a vision, know what I want, and find someone who will be competent in carrying it out. I

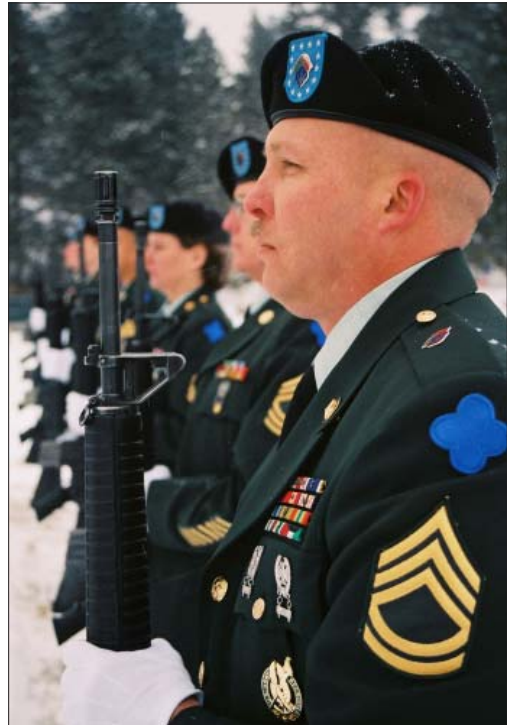
only checked up on things to ensure he and I were on the same sheet of music.

“I’ve been a part of many funeral details. I’ve always done them. If you’re a Soldier, there is no higher priority than to ensure our fallen comrades are buried with full military honors. That is the heart of what we are as Soldiers,” said the CSM.

The heart he was talking about was the same many at Fort Snelling felt beating in the chest. Volunteers were signed up and on board for training in a matter of a few hours. Intense training had volunteers for the detail staying long hours on their own time. Not to say there wasn’t time during the duty day given to the teams for training. The CSM said, “Funeral honors is the highest priority.”

The heads of every section were advised of the necessary time and all complied.

Imhoff, along with team leaders like Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tyree L. Cobb, trained with their teams for countless hours



**Sgt. 1st Class Randall G. Stark of the 88th Regional Readiness Command's Funeral Honors Rifle Team bears the cold in Spokane, Wash. at the funeral for Staff Sgt. Stephan Hattamer.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Farley  
88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office*







**CSM John S. Werner, command seargeant major of the 88th Regional Readiness Command, and Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Russell, 88<sup>th</sup> RRC Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER) sergeant major, stand at attention at Staff Sgt. Stephan Hattamer's funeral on a snowy January day in Spokane, WA.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Farley  
88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office*

**Story by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88<sup>th</sup> RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office**

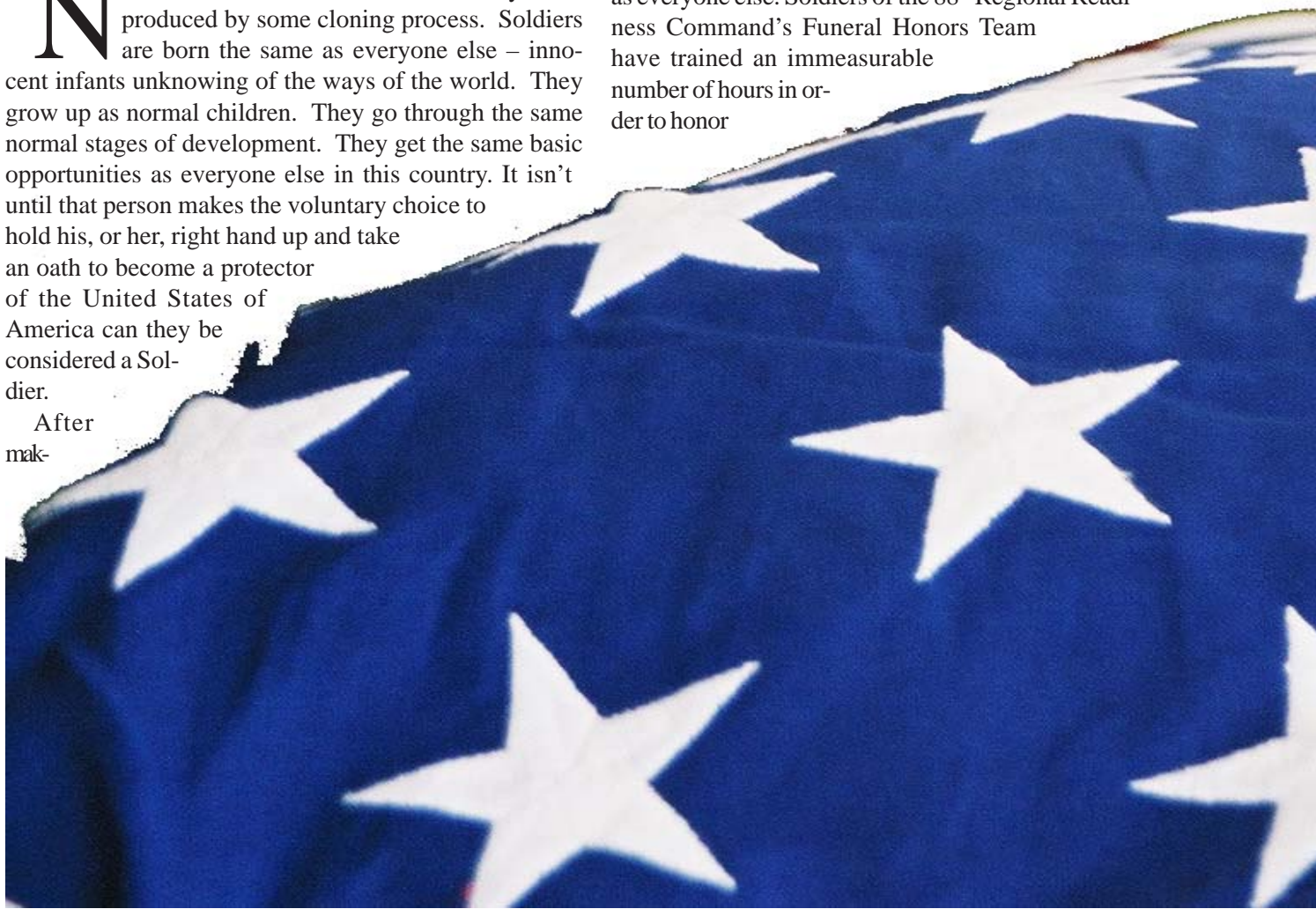
**N**o one is born a Soldier. Nor are they mass produced by some cloning process. Soldiers are born the same as everyone else – innocent infants unknowing of the ways of the world. They grow up as normal children. They go through the same normal stages of development. They get the same basic opportunities as everyone else in this country. It isn't until that person makes the voluntary choice to hold his, or her, right hand up and take an oath to become a protector of the United States of America can they be considered a Soldier.

After  
mak-

ing that solemn oath, the Soldier trains continuously. Never relenting to exhaustion or the thought 'I can't do it.' The Soldier, male or female, pushes themselves to what they think their limits are, and then, they go farther. They strive, and sometimes get pushed, to be all they can be. In every success they walk a little taller, feel a little stronger, and let their voice be heard a little louder.

No matter how different Soldiers end up being from those that may have grown up with them, Soldiers are, however, still human. They were born the same as everyone

else. Many Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers live the same as everyone else, and they all die the same as everyone else. Soldiers of the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command's Funeral Honors Team have trained an immeasurable number of hours in order to honor





# Pulling Strings

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley  
88th RRC Public Affairs Office

After a very short time in the Army Soldiers could start feeling like a puppet on a string. Getting pulled this and that way, being told to do this then that -- never seeming to be able to do what the Soldier wants to do. One Soldier in the 88th Regional Readiness Command has found a way to reverse the role, at least in his life as a civilian.

Staff Sgt. Michael Chann, a broadcast journalist with the 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment based in Whitehall, Ohio, has made himself in charge of all the string pulling as a puppeteer. With a Master's degree in puppetry, one can safely say Chann is anything but a typical Army Reserve Soldier.

"Almost every time I tell someone what I majored in I hear 'You can major in that?'" Chann said. "I'm usually laughing before I finish telling someone my major, because I know they will have questions. I will say that I do more in my degree field than many of the people coming out of college today."

In college, Chann started majoring in Mechanical Engineering, but found that he did not have the patience or knack for upper level math and sciences. "When I looked around for another degree to pursue, I found the puppetry program at the University of Connecticut," said Chann, of Newark, Ohio.

Throughout the world, puppetry reflects each culture's heritage and folklore. It was exactly what he wanted: The blend of art, science, mechanics, design, acting and performance reached Chann on many levels, so he said he jumped into it. "I

feel so relaxed and at ease when I'm performing and sculpting. It was the perfect fit," he said.

College is also where he met his wife, Alison. "My wife and I are working on a project, which is a collection of short vignettes we have done over the years, which we will perform for Newark," he said.

We have done a lot of freelance work and workshops in schools and centers throughout central Ohio. There is a guy here in Newark that does parade floats and I built a 3 foot jester head for him as well as a 12 foot statue of liberty."

"I did a few pieces while in college with military themes," said Chann. "My experiences helped me with research and knowledge. On the flip side, when I reclassified into Broadcast Journalism, my degree helped me a lot. We studied lighting, costuming, design, set construction, as well as the different aspects of performance." The lighting and performance helped Chann while attending Defense Information School. In fact, he earned Distinguished Honor Graduate.

Chann also consults on some works for Weathervane Playhouse, a summer stock theatre in Newark. He also did a little acting, performing in the summer of 2001 as "Audrey 2" (the plant) in "The Little Shop of Horrors" for the playhouse. However, he said he has not been able to create many new works lately due to his deployment and the birth of his daughter, now 2 years old.



**Staff Sgt. Michael Chann of the 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment looks at one of his puppets built while attending the University of Connecticut's graduate puppetry program.**

*Photo by Sgt. Andrew Loveless  
367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

"Since I have a graduate degree, I also have loans to pay off for a graduate degree," said Chann. "The freelance world of performance, especially puppetry, is a hard one in which to make a living. Ali and I decided that we wanted a family and that that was the priority in our lives."

Chann and his wife left the tour after a year and decided to take on "regular" jobs and pursue puppetry on the side. Although they miss performing, they don't miss the stress of when and from where the next paycheck is coming.

"Looking at my daughter I know we have made the right decision," he said. "We have friends that are doing well in the business, but we also know what sacrifices they had to make to get there. We are happy for them and they are happy for us."

Note: The 367th MPAD was deployed to Iraq to serve as the public affairs piece for the 4th Infantry Division and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as they pushed their way north and westward into central Iraq last year. The unit came off of active duty April 21, 2004, more than a year after being deployed. ♦





**The 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command honor guard poses, post-ceremony, amidst the graves at the Florence-American Cemetery.**

take.

June 4<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the liberation of Rome. The 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was the first into the city on this day in 1944 — a position of honor. The ceremony at the ‘Rome Pyramid’ honored the World War II veterans of the U.S., Canada and Italy, especially the renowned Special Service Force veterans. Later that afternoon the 88<sup>th</sup> group traveled once again to the U.S.-Rome embassy where President George W. Bush formally thanked veterans and those currently in uniform for their contribution to peace and freedom.

With no scheduled events the following day, members of the group privately toured area museums before gearing up for their final mission on the tour.

The next day, June 7<sup>th</sup>, the 88<sup>th</sup> offered a ceremony in The Florence-American Cemetery and Memorial. There lies the sheltered remains of American military members who died in battles after the capture of Rome and heavy fighting in the Apennines shortly before the end of this war. These alone represent 39% of U.S. Fifth Army burials made between Rome and the Alps.

The backdrop of the Memorial, ‘Tablets of the Missing’, list the 4,402 names and affiliations of those who died in the battles in this region, akin to the ‘Vietnam Memorial’ wall.

The keynote speaker was a veteran who had been seriously wounded in the Vietnam War: Mr. Gordon H. Mansfield, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“I have to tell you,” said Mr. Mansfield, “just personally having made the easy trip from Rome by automobile yesterday, as an Infantry man who has been in battle myself, I was thinking how much slogging and how hard it was to fight their way through these hills, what a tough time this terrain would have given the men sixty years ago. But they did it, and they did it well.”

The cemetery supervisor, John Luncheon, spoke to the 88<sup>th</sup> Soldiers, describing achievements of the American Armed Forces in this region. As Luncheon continued, he pointed in illustration to a marble wall mosaic depicting operations and movement; the cloverleaf symbol of the 88<sup>th</sup> was evident in numerous places on the map, noting its participation in so many of these battles. That evidence of the 88<sup>th</sup> led to a final visit to Battle Mountain, one of the more important battle sites in Blue Devil history.

The address of 506 Roeder Circle is familiar to those who report to 88<sup>th</sup> RRC headquarters (HQ). For this reason as well as the significant battle history of Captain Robert E. Roeder, bearing witness on Battle Mountain (Mt. Battaglia) holds special significance. It has been described as “the drive which was to prove the bloodiest and most difficult of all the 88<sup>th</sup> operations in combat.”

It is fitting that the last site visited on this tour was this. This, the site where Blue Devils withstood the savagery of foes, yet maintained the mission objective. This, the final, brave stand of the honored namesake of the 88<sup>th</sup> HQ’s main traffic route.

A stone memorial placed here by the 88<sup>th</sup> IDA confirms the gruesome tale; a tale of the Blue Devils. ♣



tary members.

Col. (ret.) William E. Konze headed the tour delegation from the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association. The association laid a memorial wreath, as they have on this date for the past 59 years, honoring their comrades in death and in life. Beasley spoke of the bravery and sacrifices of sixty years past, and thanked the veterans for their contributions to freedom and peace. The honor guard presented the colors with precision; the 451<sup>st</sup> offered the Canadian, Italian and U.S. national anthems as attendees stood and saluted. After the ceremony, many strolled quietly through the grounds, reading headstones and inscriptions, taking photos, adding new memories to those already held deep within.

The day was only half finished. The group traveled by bus to the beachhead area of Anzio, a famous battle site currently occupied by a marina with scores of modern sailboats and motor yachts. There they gave their second performance of the day, an evening outdoor concert in

the town square.

The concert attracted several hundred townspeople and summer vacationers with the wafting melodies of free, live musical entertainment. The 'Andrews Sisters' act was a big hit, especially for the World War II era veterans. Applause greeted the unexpected choreographic bits in the act while audience members danced in their seats and mouthed the lyrics.

Afterward, the local museum curator invited the 88<sup>th</sup> delegation to a reception. The tightly packed single-room museum has been open to the public since 1994, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied landing, 'Operation Shingle'.

Awards and plaques of appreciation were exchanged between the city and the 88th. Everyone was gracious and offered appreciative comments about the other side's contributions and efforts, but with an underlying sense of restraint and respect for those responsible but who could no longer par-



**President of the U.S., George W. Bush, speaks at the U.S.-Rome embassy to U.S. World War II veterans. From left, U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell and U.S.-Italy Ambassador, Mel Sembler.**



**451<sup>st</sup> Army Band Commander, CW2 Daniel D. Eckhoff, presents a concert to the townspeople of Anzio.**





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Regional Readiness Command

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# Blue Devils in Italy

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Janet Jones  
88th RRC Public Affairs Office



451<sup>st</sup> Army Band drum major, Staff Sgt. Jeff Smith, salutes during the national anthems at the band's Anzio concert.

In early June, members of the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association (88<sup>th</sup> IDA), historical kin of the current 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC), toured their former battle sites in Italy. Following is a glimpse into the

344 days of combat with more than their share of honors and paid with more than their share of losses: 15,173 men killed, wounded and missing-in-action. They were later described by the Germans as the best



Col. (Ret.) William E. Konze, wife Alice, Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley and Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner present a memorial wreath from the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery.

journey taken by members of the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC who joined this historic quest on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battles.

The 88<sup>th</sup> 'Blue Devils', so named by radio propagandist 'Axis Sally' for their fierce and unrelenting fighting, were in the thick of many of the actions fought and won in Italy, 1944.

They concluded

American division in Italy.

Representatives from the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC at Fort Snelling, Minn. participated in this commemorative journey, including Commanding General Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley and wife, Roberta, Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner, the Honor Guard and Chief Warrant Officer Daniel D. Eckhoff with the 451<sup>st</sup> Army band.

For this group, an immersion into the 60<sup>th</sup> commemoration tour began on Memorial Day, when U.S. ambassador to Italy, Melvin Sembler, hosted a reception on the grounds of the U.S. embassy in Rome for almost 200 World War II veterans from the U.S., Canada and Italy and U.S. and Italian military dignitaries.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the 88<sup>th</sup> conducted a memorial ceremony at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial, one of the monuments built and managed by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Interred there are the remains of 7,861 mili-



and grandmother. "They both taught me great discipline, strength, and drive. They led as examples and taught me that just because other people may see me as just a girl, too young or too inexperienced and may think that I am not capable of a particular task, I can do whatever I set my mind on." They also gave her wise words of advice. "They told me that when people doubt my abilities, it should make me stronger and want to work harder instead of giving in to them and having self doubt."

Strong mentors for DeCapite are also in the military. "I have had many strong mentors that were all female non-commissioned officers. Sgt. 1st Class Suzan Lesage, Sgt. Christine White, and former Sgt. Cindy Troph, now 2nd Lt. Troph. These people always taught me, encouraged me, and had my back." ♦

NOTE: The white coloring of the tigers is a result of a gene mutation responsible for the determination of coat color. There are fewer than 200 white tigers in the world. Recorded sightings of white tigers in India and Nepal date back over 160 years.

White Tigers have black or ash-grey stripes on a varying cream to white background. Their nose and pads of their feet are pink. Their average body size is slightly larger than the orange Bengal tiger, about 300-550 pounds. Another important feature of the white tiger is their icy blue eyes, which distinguish them from true albinos with pink eyes.



**A tiger trainer in her civilian career, Army Reserve 1st Lt. DeCapite, feeds a Bengal tiger.**

*Photo provided by 1st Lt. Christine DeCapite*



**1st Lt. Christine DeCapite was one of 25 officers Army wide to receive the MacArthur Leadership Award.**

*US Army photo.*

## By Rich Lamance

WASHINGTON – During the now historic speech to the 1962 graduating class of West Point cadets, Gen. Douglas MacArthur inspired the graduates with the words of "...duty, honor, country." More than 40 years later, those words have an equally inspiring meaning to the daughter of a Newbury man and an Aurora woman.

U.S. Army Reserve 1st Lt. Christine M. DeCapite, daughter of Clark DeCapite, Melody Lane, Newbury, and Julian DeCapite, Green Tree Circle, Aurora, was one of only 25 officers from throughout the active Army, reserves and national guard to receive the prestigious

General Douglas MacArthur leadership award during a recent Pentagon ceremony. The leadership awards showcased the top company grade officers within the Army who showed the ability to motivate others, understand fellow Soldiers and inspire teamwork and commitment in others.

"As a lieutenant I've been serving in a major's position as the hospital adjutant (personnel chief) for the 256th Combat Support Hospital," explained DeCapite. "During a recent rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., where we go through training against an opposing force, I was tasked to be the public affairs officer. We covered shifts 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week during simulated combat conditions. It was quite a challenge," she added.

"I deal with all personnel actions while at home station in Ohio. In a combat situation, I maintain 100 percent accountability for the office hospital staff and all patients and supporting units. I am trained as an assistant field medic, but I am currently taking the patient administration correspondence course!"

In the civilian world, DeCapite is a tiger trainer for Six Flags. "I work with four Bengal tigers that I hand-raised as cubs. My co-workers and I focus on making guests aware of the plight of endangered animals — especially the five remaining sub-species of tigers. We also educate guests about species survival and habitat conservation."

Even though officers in the 21st Century face new concerns on a fast-paced, technological battlefield, many of the challenges Gen. MacArthur faced more than half a century ago also face Soldiers today. DeCapite's advice to new officers entering the Army is not dramatically different from those given to the 1962 West Point class.

"New officers should never underestimate what they can do!" she advised. "They should never doubt their abilities, and never listen to people who tell them that they can't do something because they are just a first lieutenant or a girl!" ♦



# Tigers, Soldiers, One Blue Devil tames them all

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley  
88th RRC Public Affairs Office



Receiving the MacArthur leadership award was the cat's meow for 1st Lt. Christine DeCapite, whose daily job is dealing with cats that don't have rank, but can be just as demanding.

*Photo provided by 1st Lt. Christine DeCapite*

It takes a lot of skill to motivate a 500-pound carnivorous tiger to do what you want. Now try motivating four of them. This is Christine DeCapite's daily job. No wonder motivating her Soldiers comes natural.

DeCapite is a tiger trainer in her civilian career. 1st Lt. DeCapite, with the Army Reserve's 256th Combat Support Hospital (CSH), 330th Medical Brigade, 88th Regional Readiness Command, is also a 2004 recipient of the prestigious General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

She received this honor during a Pentagon ceremony May 26th. This award, presented by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, recognizes the top company-grade officers in the Army, National Guard and Army Reserve that have the ability to motivate others, understand fellow Soldiers and inspire teamwork in others. Her commander, Col. Terry Washam, nominated DeCapite for this award. The 256th CSH is based in Brooklyn, Ohio.

"The army and my career have both taught me skills that I can use in both fields," DeCapite said. "Animal training has taught me great respect and extreme patience."

The road to her civilian career began in college after receiving an internship with the Natural History Museum caring for and rehabilitating injured wildlife. After graduating with a degree in Biology, DeCapite was offered a job at Sea World training birds. "I then moved to training dolphins and every other marine mammal you can think of. The Park was sold to Six Flags, and they offered me a

position training tigers."

Later, DeCapite was sent to California for two months to help raise tiger cubs. She brought them back to the Park with her. "Now I am with the same four tigers [in New Jersey]," she said. "We are part of Tiger Island. We do a completely educational free (full) contact show. We use operant conditioning (all rewards for doing good behavior and nothing for not so good) like they use in marine mammals. We do not put on a circus act with whips, chairs and flaming hoops. All of our cats behaviors are natural and demonstrate to the public their speed strength and agility. This is so the public will have a better understand-

ing of these animals."

The Bengal tigers are also an endangered species. DeCapite's goal is to educate the Park's guests on endangered animals, habitat conservation and what people can do in their own homes to help the endangered tiger's plight.

There are two female tigers; a white named Chandi, an orange named Hara and two white males, Faruk and Balin. According to DeCapite, even though they are siblings, each tiger has their very own distinct personalities.

"I have to treat all four tigers equally but the big male Faruk is my squishy face!" said DeCapite. Although they are all my "babies" they are still wild animals and always will be. I never turn my back on them and never trust them. These animals are not pets!"

"We spend over 40 hours a week with these animals. It is my full-time job! They are extremely well trained and worked with but wild! We do get hurt but usually because the tiger is trying to play with us and does not realize its strength."

As far as her part time job as an Army Reserve Soldier, DeCapite said she joined ROTC in college because she wanted to be "balanced in my life. The Army Reserve has great rewards - tuition payment, a chance to be schooled in becoming and actually becoming a leader. I also knew that I wanted to be in a particular career but didn't want to leave the military behind." She added, "So now I have the best of both worlds."

DeCapite has two solid role models, her own mother

**BlueDevil II**





**A Soldier ground guides a container into place once delivered to Indian Island. Containers were stacked two high before being dispersed throughout the island.**  
*Photo by Sgt. Christopher D. Rowe*  
 318th Public Affairs Operations Center

set sail to Indian Island. All cargo that arrived at Indian Island would be stored in proper facilities throughout the island until transported to its final destination overseas at a later date.

The exercise involved massive coordination between several diverse groups of Soldiers. Commanders at the Tactical Operations Center were accountable for all trucks, vessels, munitions, and most importantly every Soldier during this massive exercise. Commercial contractors are typically hired to make such munitions moves, but Soldiers used the mission as a chance to train and use the

skills they have acquired over the years.

“By using Soldiers from the Army Reserve, active component and National Guard we save the government a lot of time and money. We take advantage of this opportunity because we can train our Soldiers not only in their technical skills but also in their tactical skills and at the same time accomplish something important for the Army,” said Col. George R. Harris, commander of the 326<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group.

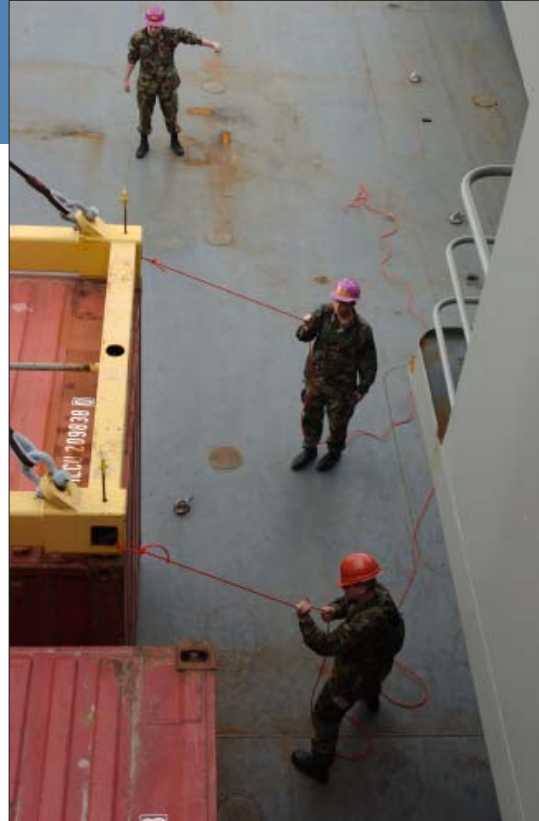
Soldiers slept in huge tents on the

shore of Indian Island. Despite the scenic view, rain and cold weather provided Soldiers with extra difficulties for their tasks. Operations were run in shifts throughout the day and had to be scheduled around peak traffic hours. Checkpoints were established throughout the route and pointed trucks in the right direction on their way to and from the island. Soldiers were required to wear full “battle-rattle” during the mission, which includes Kevlar, load-bearing equipment, and M-16.

When the troops weren’t moving cargo, they filled extra time conducting LANES training. Drill sergeants from the 84<sup>th</sup> Division conducted the training. Much of the training covered convoy tactics and techniques including reacting to an attack while in a convoy. Soldiers learned about recent attacks that had been attempted by enemy forces during missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“This whole program is compiled based on lessons learned in theatre,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James W. Davis Jr., a Drill Sergeant with the 84<sup>th</sup> Division. “As we all know every theatre, every enemy we’ve ever come in contact with, has different ways of operating, and unfortunately you cannot predict for over a million different scenarios. So you try to minimize it down to the ones that are actually being used. If you know what your enemy is doing, if they come up with Enemy Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP’s), you learn what they are, what their habits are, how they operate, and how you can prepare to be aggressive and retaliate against them.”

“One extra incentive for this exercise that makes it unique from exercises we’ve done in the past is the support of the Army water fleet. We’ve got LSV’s and we’ve got the Barge Derrick crane of which the Army only has four in its entire inventory. We’re able to actually do boat operations which is something that most of our Army Soldiers have never done before. So it’s really made this an interesting experience.” ♣



**Soldiers aboard a Logistical Support Vessel guide containers onto the cargo deck in preparation to sail through the Puget Sound, Wash. LSV's represent a portion of the Army's class A vessels.**  
*Photo by Sgt. Christopher D. Rowe*  
 318th Public Affairs Operations Center



**A Barge Derrick crane 1 of 4 in the world owned by the Army, prepares to hoist a container of munitions off a truck and onto a Logistical Support Vessel. The crane can lift Army tugboats in and out of the water with ease.**  
*Photo by Sgt. Christopher D. Rowe*  
 318th Public Affairs Operations Center



# Munitions through the Mountains

Story by Sgt. Christopher D. Rowe  
318<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Operations Center

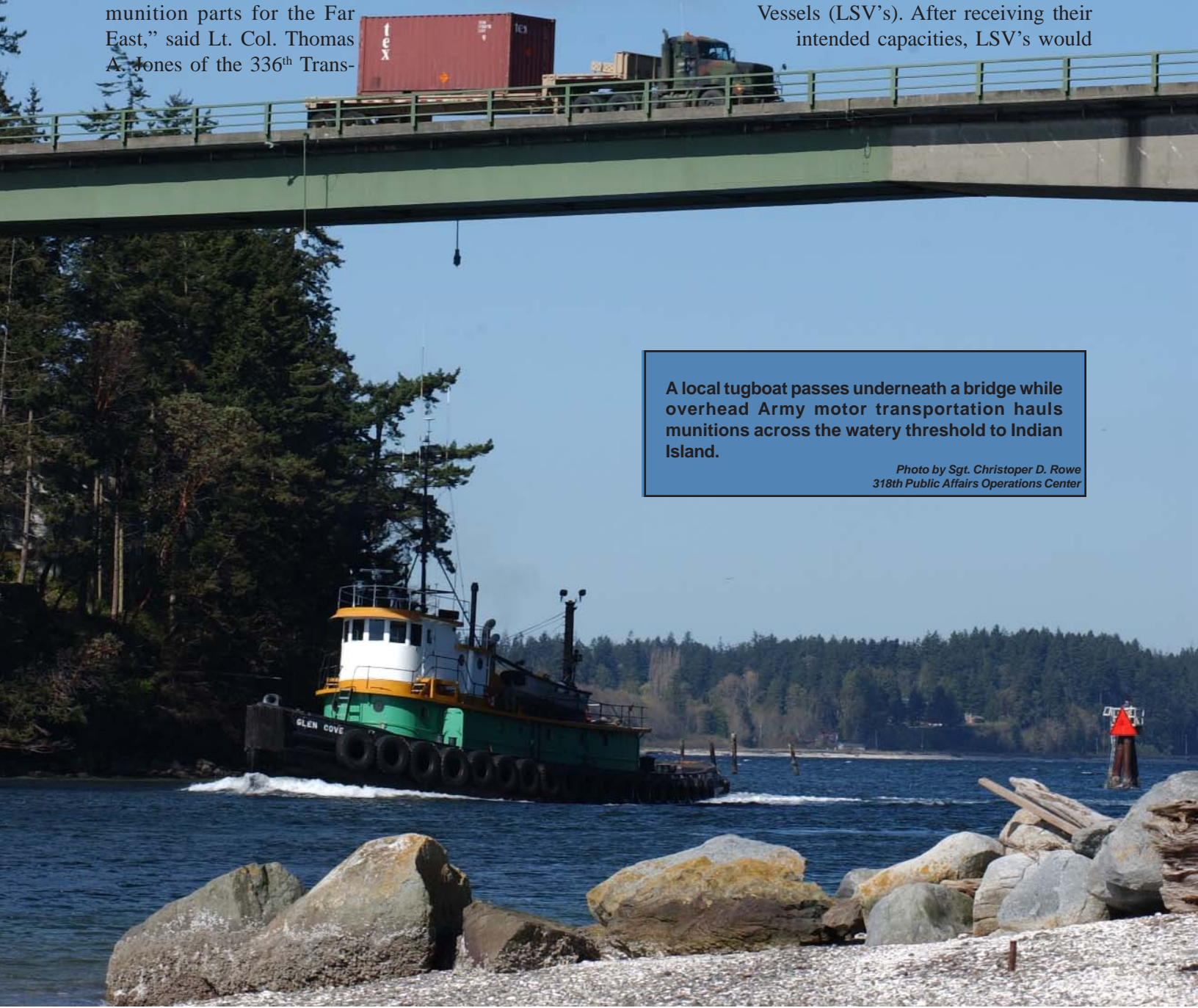
**S**oldiers crashed through seas, crossed the Rocky Mountains, and hammered their way across miles and miles of endless railroad tracks to participate in one of the largest joint operations to ever take place in the U.S. Military. A collaboration of Army, Navy and civilian personnel joined forces to make this challenging real-world mission a success.

Operation “Golden Cargo – Ordnance on the Move” took place March 29 through April 9 this year in the Puget Sound, Wash., region and incorporated several Regional Readiness Commands from across the country.

“It’s really good for the Soldiers because we’re working with the Navy and civilians in a joint operation trying to make this happen. We’re trying to deliver a product, a real-world product, with the delivery of munitions and munition parts for the Far East,” said Lt. Col. Thomas A. Jones of the 336<sup>th</sup> Trans-

portation Corps Battalion, a subordinate unit of the 88th Regional Readiness Command. “It’s an exceptional exercise where we have Army rail, Army motor transportation, movement control and Army water craft all involved in the same exercise.”

Munitions from various parts of the country were transported by rail to Naval Submarine Base Bangor and the cargo was then transported by two different routes. Naval Magazine Indian Island was the final destination for all the munitions and some transportation companies drove the cargo directly to the site. The other route was by water through the Puget Sound. Coordination with Naval authorities was a key element in conducting the exercise. Trucks would haul specific cargo to Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport, a short distance from Bangor. The cargo was unloaded by a giant floating crane named the Gen. Delaware, then loaded on to Logistical Support Vessels (LSV’s). After receiving their intended capacities, LSV’s would



A local tugboat passes underneath a bridge while overhead Army motor transportation hauls munitions across the watery threshold to Indian Island.

*Photo by Sgt. Christopher D. Rowe  
318<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Operations Center*



little boy.

*On day five some of the same enjoyment for both of us, for Saliman, it was crackers and for me, just being able to see this little boy that had to be in a great deal of pain smile. I was leaving that afternoon for Uzbekistan and had to go, once I walked out of his sight, he rose up and looked to see where I was as if he was saying good bye.*

*I was gone just over a week; while I was coordinating my return I asked if Saliman was still at the hospital. The person that I was talking with did not know. There have been a lot of kids come in and I do not always get the joy of seeing them go home with their family. I have just been elsewhere. Once I returned after dropping off my things I immediately went to the ICW to see if Saliman was still here. He was! Another big smile once he saw me and you would not know that I had been away.*

*Today is Wednesday and Saliman gets to go home this Saturday, he lives in a village near that Pakistani border that is about an hour helicopter ride away. If and when you look at a map, it is near Asadabad, Afghanistan.*

*Initially, I was concerned if we would be able to get him back to his family. Most people don't know what villages they come from, they know what valley or tribe. We do know where he needs to go and will get him back to his family.*

*I hope that you have enjoyed one of my stories. Take care, Mike*

Holdway said Saliman didn't have any visitors during his 2 ½ week stay in the hospital. Neither of his parents came in to see how the Army was treating their son. That isn't unusual though. In Afghanistan, the women are treated as if they have less value than livestock. The men there do not allow the women to go in to visit the hospital, and most times the men find other things to keep themselves too busy to come in for a visit.

It's very different from the United States, Holdway explained.

"I have three children. All boys," said Holdway. "Dealing with the children here reminds you of your own kids. It makes you thankful that we're Americans and we live in the society that we do, instead of the society here.

"If I had the power—and I'm not God so I don't— but if I did, what I would change is that Saliman and the other children would be born in a civilization that would not have the harsh treatment they have here. It would be a civilization that they would be educated. Somewhere where they would

have free will, not live in a place where war lords run the society. Some place they would have a chance.

"There was an explosion outside the gate three weeks ago. It killed six people. The explosion was caused by someone trying to get the gun powder out of unexploded ordnance. The war lords will pay people for the unexploded ordnance. People are dying trying to cash it in for a few dollars."

When things like that happened, it was the 452<sup>nd</sup> that people were brought to. The people with a chance. "When we got here it was probably the busiest medical facility in the world. It's almost like we're the 911 for the country. You go around and look at the other hospitals in the country and it turns your stomach because of what they have to work with. It's not that there aren't enough educated doctors in the country, it's just that they have so little to work with.

"It's hard to explain what these people (Afganis) are going through and the quality of life they have. They are very appreciative of us being here – when they leave here and they're in better health, they're very appreciative of what we're doing here," said Holdway.

The 452<sup>nd</sup> had been in Afghanistan for approximately 5 months when this article was first written. The whole time the unit was there the Soldiers were helping the people that live there as well as the Soldiers that were deployed there. While the war on terrorism wages on bringing hardship, casualties and death to the people who reside within the borders of Afghanistan—the 452<sup>nd</sup> and units like it will continue to be the '911' for the country. Maybe the units that replaced the 452<sup>nd</sup> will also be there to offer a cracker or two to other little boys and girls that are like Saliman. ♣



**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Holdway and little friend Saliman take a moment from playing with new toys to capture a photo.**

*Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Holdway, Bagram medical task force CSM.*





## OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

## Saliman's Smile



**Saliman, 2 1/2-3 years old, burned, bandaged and on track for recovery smiles for a photo.**

*Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Holdway, Bagram medical task force CSM.*

**Story by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88<sup>th</sup> RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office**

While the headline focus in the news stays with Iraq, there is still plenty going on in Afghanistan. Just one of the units that the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command has had in the still violent country was the 452<sup>nd</sup> Combat Support Hospital. The war on terrorism is not over. With casualties/patients coming in everyday, no one knows it better than the Soldiers treating the wounded.

The war on terrorism is not a clean war. As in the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, it isn't just Soldiers getting hurt on the battlefield. Civilians – children – are suffering from the war spilling into their villages.

One child in particular grabbed the attention of Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Holdway, the CSM for the

medical task force in Bagram, Afghanistan. The child's name is Saliman. Here's the story of one little boy that Holdway sent out to his peers, friends and family.

*Some of you I have already told this story. If you wish not to read it again you should just look at the pictures. For the rest of you, here is only one story about a little boy that has visited the American Hospital in Afghanistan.*

*His name is Saliman and he is about 2.5 to 3 years old. Some of the Special Forces found Saliman lying on the oven (which is basically an opened flame where the Afghanis cook). The SF brought him to the EMT (ER) and he was admitted into the hospital.*

*I can't tell you much about the first three days because my story starts on day four. On one of my rounds through the hospital (I do this about four to six times a day visiting with Soldiers) upon entering Improved Care Ward (ICW) I saw this little boy. Dark complexion, BIG brown eyes and just a cutie!*

*One of the Soldiers told me about how he was watching inattentively while a little girl (18 months) was eating some fish crackers. I asked if he could eat anything and was told that he was waiting for the doc to come back through and give the O.K. Meanwhile the officer in charge of the ward came by and said that it would be OK for Saliman to have crackers. I gave him a few and he ate two and a half and fell asleep. What else could this little Afghani boy do, all stranger around and can't understand a word that is being said.*

*Later I went back at dinner time and Saliman again wanted something to eat, I had created a bond by just giving this little boy a cracker. After getting a cracker for him he couldn't eat it fast enough. I started off breaking little pieces off and then just gave that up and he started biting it. When I showed him the second cracker, I could not believe the smile that Saliman gave me to say thank you and we are buddies for good. Saliman ate five crackers for dinner that night with each smile getting bigger and bigger.*

*I had visited (checked on him) a number of times throughout the afternoon, he was either asleep or just laid there (probably in pain). Again, when he was finished, he fell asleep. This was almost too much excitement for one day. I reflected several times after that as to the joy that a saltine cracker brought to one*



here to help, but when a Soldier is wrong according to a regulation, we have to stand by the reg.”

Parkinson said, “When there’s a problem, we investigate the issue to find the root cause. Once we find the root cause, we teach and train. We teach people where they, or things, strayed from the regs. and how it should’ve gone. We then train them how to do things properly. It’s the whole ‘crawl – walk – run’ concept the Army uses.”

“It’s very rewarding when you can help someone. People are desperate when they come to you,” said Byer.

Helping people isn’t always easy, Byer explained. “It’s

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**“It’s a career enhancing assignment. Because of the nomination process, selectees are set apart and are known to be the cream of the crop.”**

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challenging. Almost every case is different. You’ll hear things you don’t want to hear. You’ll uncover things that shock you. It can be emotionally draining.

“You can get very wrapped up. You get pulled into others’ lives. Most of our cases are assistance cases. Some can take a couple of hours – some months.”

The rewards of being an IG don’t stop at the personal satisfaction of helping others, Stoffa explained.

“I think being an IG got me to O-6,” Stoffa said. “If you look at my evaluations, I don’t have all ‘1’ blocks. Folks recognize the challenges of being an IG and the diversity of being an IG.”

Parkinson said, “It’s a career enhancing assignment. Because of the nomination process, selectees are set apart and are known to be the cream of the crop.”

“It makes a better Soldier,” said Haugen when asked about what being an IG does in a career. “You must be an independent thinker. It’s so rewarding because the things you see and do.”

“This is a wonderful way to end my career,” said Byer, who is 14 months from retirement.

“You have a window to see the Army in a very different way,” said Parkinson.

The 88<sup>th</sup>’s IG staff have been getting more and more looks through that window because of the current case load, and the lack of ‘one weekend per month – and two weeks per year’ Soldiers.

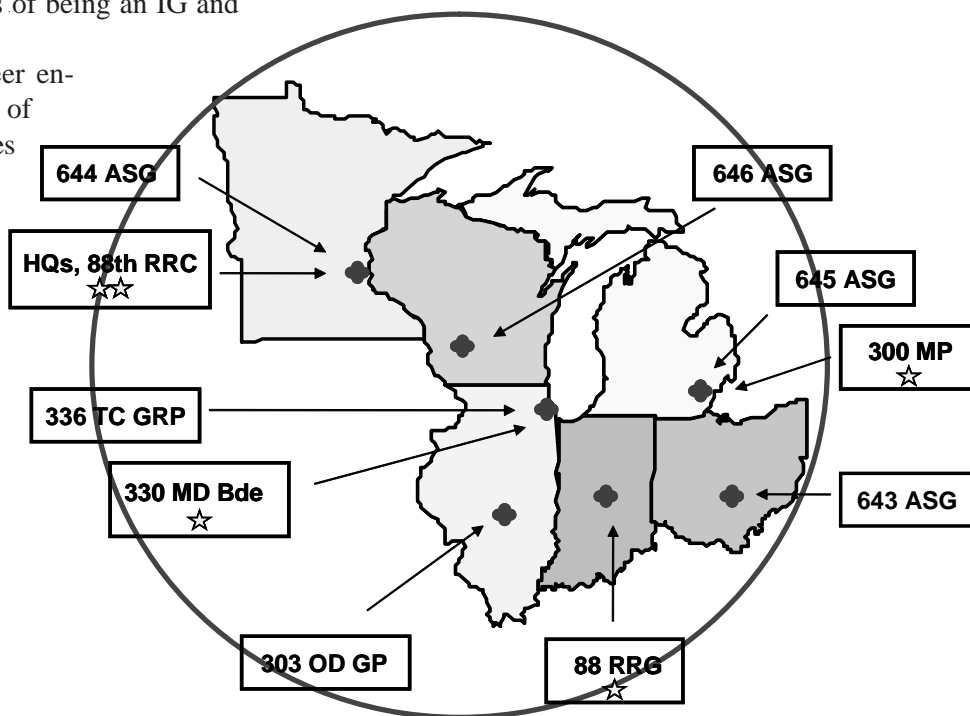
“We don’t travel extensively, but you do get a chance to rack up some frequent flyer miles working here,” said Byer. “It’s hard to say how much it would affect our load, but a TPU Soldier coming in could expect to spend about 50 percent of their combat training assemblies (drills) on some kind of travel orders.”

The benefits of being an IG are numerous – the commitment in never ending, said Stoffa. Helping others is reason enough for some, and making sure people are toeing the line and doing things right is a reason others may choose to be an IG.

Whatever the reason a Soldier chooses to be an IG, the fact is that the Soldier has gone through a rigorous process to get to be an IG and is trained to get to the root of a problem. The IG is always there for every Soldier and his family to go to with a problem. Going through the chain of command is where most issues should be handled, but if that is where a problem lay, or the chain of command is unable to help, the IG is there.

Keeping the 88<sup>th</sup> running smoothly by ensuring the regulations are understood and followed, ensuring Soldiers get a fair shake and are treated properly, and educating people on how things should be handled or showing them how things work is all in the day of the life for an IG, ‘The eyes, ears, and sometimes the voice of the command.’

## 88th RRC IG – Sphere of Activity





# Nothing but the Truth

Story by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88<sup>th</sup> RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office

There are many sayings that refer to truth. ‘The truth hurts.’ ‘The truth will set you free.’ Truth is undoubtedly a powerful thing. That is why the truth is sought out by many, and many try to hide it. Keeping all this in mind, who can a Soldier rely on to find the truth? Who will be an impartial fact finder that can help a Soldier who isn’t getting a fair shake? The answer to this question lays in one office, the Inspector General’s Office.

The IG, as it is widely known, is the appeals process for many Soldiers that feel wronged. Investigating wide varieties of complaints and accusations, conducting inspections, reviewing and interpreting regulations, and overall helping Soldiers and their families who feel they have no where else to turn is all in the day of the life of an IG.

“Soldiers come to us with all sorts of problems,” said Master Sgt. Theresa L. Byer, an inspection NCO for IG – 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command. “Anything from

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**“What’s really most important is that they haven’t compromised their integrity in their career.”**

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not getting paid, not receiving an OER (officer evaluation report) or an NCOER (noncommissioned officer report), having an issue with a regulation, being mistreated – all kinds of things.”

The reward of helping people with real problems is enough to keep the IG’s office full of active guard and reserve (AGR) Soldiers like Byer. Keeping the cases stacked high is due to the lack of troop program unit (TPU) Soldiers working for the IG.

“The nomination process is very extensive,” said Maj. James A. Parkinson, operations/ detailed IG with the 88<sup>th</sup>. “A Soldier has to provide information going back 10 years. Not his last 10 NCOERs or OERs – the last 10 years worth of information on his career.

“They have to prove they’ve had clean careers with broad experience. What’s really most important is that they haven’t compromised their integrity in their career.”



It is only E-7s and above on the enlisted side, and senior captains (preferably with command experience) and above for the commissioned officers that are considered for the three year assignment of being an IG. To be considered for a position in the IG a Soldier must submit copies of his 2A (2B for an officer), 2-1, the last 10 years of evaluations, a photo, a current physical, a physical training (PT) test and a biographical summary.

Each packet goes through at least three major steps before being approved and can be disapproved at any of these levels. First, the staff IG reviews the packet. It is then sent on to the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) IG. After a packet makes it through those two stages, The IG (TIG) of the Army reviews each packet. The process usually takes two to three months for an approval.

An approval awards the Soldier with the opportunity to attend the three week course at Fort Belvoir, VA, to become trained in the ways of an IG. Classes covering the formats of reports, and performing inspections are demanding, Byer said.

“Best military school I’ve been to as far as preparing you for what to expect when you get home,” said Byer.

“This position is multi-faceted,” said Mary Haugen, a civilian assistant IG with the 88<sup>th</sup>. “We’re neutral fact finders. We have no disciplinary authority. We work directly for the CG (commanding general). He wants us to look at his units to make sure they are in compliance with regs (regulations.)”

“One thing that people should know is that we are the eyes, ears and sometimes the voice of the command,” said Col. Donald A. Stoffa, the IG for the 88<sup>th</sup>. “We’re



to include one at The United States Military Academy (West Point).

With Murphy and Orr onboard to actually assemble the museum, the CSM (Werner) turned to a man he'd known for 25 years to oversee the project. Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Danberry.

"Danberry is a Reserve Training Unit (RTU) Soldier only drilling for points (retirement points)," said the CSM. "I chose him only because I know his qualities. He has impeccable values. He's a man who shared the vision, shared the passion. Somebody you can trust, someone you know could carry it through."

Quality assurance manager is just one of the titles Danberry has in his civilian job working for

## CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



**Paying tribute to the two 88th Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, an authentic Medal of Honor was signed for by the 88th Regional Readiness Command and placed in the display with photos of both Soldiers.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback 88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs*

the Katolight Corporation, the manufacturer of backup power systems. Having a background of quality assurance was more than fitting for the job Danberry was taking on considering the CSM's stress on authenticity.

"If you had a giant puzzle laying on the table – all the pieces in front of you – my job was to make sure that puzzle went together in time," said Danberry.

With the Command Historian Lt. Col. John A. Zehm, Public Affairs Specialist Staff Sgt. Chris Farley, McDavitt, Murphy and Orr and others bringing individual pieces of the puzzle to the table, Danberry said his experience in his civilian job made it a piece of cake to get the puzzle put together.

With room left in the museum for growth and change, the question of 'Why the May deadline?' comes up. The CSM answered with all candidness, "Getting it ready for the May Commander's Conference was important so we could show it to all the World War II vets while they were here anyway – the ones that are still with us."

The museum is up and operational, as it has been since the Commander's Conference in May. Much due to the CSM's strive for authenticity; everything in the museum is as real as possible. The Medal of Honor, the era correct uniforms, the weapons, the equipment – everything is authentic.

Funding for the museum came from funds awarded to the 88<sup>th</sup> from the Army Community of Excellence program. Lundell said the money awarded by that fund is to be used for the benefit of Soldiers. Keeping the 88<sup>th</sup>'s history from being forgotten is to the benefit of Blue Devil Soldiers.

The museum is usually open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends that there is a Combat Training Assembly (CTA). ♣



**The Blue Devil Museum was built with room to grow so the sacrifices of today's Blue Devil Soldiers will not be forgotten tomorrow.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback 88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs*



# Leaving a Legacy



The 88th's Blue Devil Museum has been built for the benefit of all Blue Devil Soldiers, past and present, and pays tribute to both.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback 88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office

Story by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office

From its humble beginnings as the 88th Infantry Division, affectionately nicknamed the cloverleaf division, to today's Army Reserve's 88th Regional Readiness Command, Blue Devil Soldiers have changed the face of the world. The changing face of the 88th's headquarters at Fort Snelling, Minn., provided the opportunity for the history of the 88th to be showcased in a museum all of its own.

After seeing how the 90th RRC had done a museum for its history, James A. Lundell, deputy for management and support for the 88th RRC, wanted to have something along the same lines for the Soldiers of the 88th. The problem with building such a museum was the 88th RRC didn't have the space to give it a home. That changed with a land exchange with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT).

An ever growing metropolis, the Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota had approved the building of a

new light rail that was projected to run through Fort Snelling. To make it happen, MNDOT had to work a deal for a piece of land owned by the RRC. The 88th traded the land for an addition to building 506 that now makes up roughly 1/3 of the buildings size.

It didn't take long to fill the newest wing of the building. The operations, training, and engineering sections of the headquarters wasted no time taking residence in the main and upper levels of the addition. In the basement

ence room now known as the Blue Devil Conference Room, a gathering area, and an empty room close to the same size as the Blue Devil Conference Room.

"I was getting people asking me if they could put cages in there, if they could use it for storage, all kinds of things," said Lundell. "Putting a sign up that said, 'Future home of the Blue Devil Museum' put an end to that real quick."

The Command Sergeant Major of the 88th RRC, Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner, and Lundell met with Jim A. McDavitt, contract administrator for the 88th.

"We met with the head of our contracting cell to help us with finding the appropriate contractor for the job," said Lundell. Murphy and Orr, a company based in Atlanta, was the company hired for the job.

Murphy and Orr has made a name for itself putting together military museums throughout the United States



Members of the 88th Infantry Division Association stood shoulder to shoulder with the senior staff of the 88th Regional Readiness Command for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the museum in May.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback 88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs



# Power and Precision



**88th Regional Readiness Command  
Honor Guard**



# Post Combat Stress: How to Recognize It and Help Soldiers

Story by Chaplain (LTC) Dan Harrison  
88th RRC staff chaplain

It is no secret that when Soldiers return home from combat operations they are changed people. The stresses of battle, traumatic circumstances, and things they have witnessed impact them greatly. Often, things that have happened to them or fellow unit members may continue to influence them after they return home. They may have difficulty in readjusting to family members, friends and their civilian employment. Those who care for and about Soldiers often ask how they can help when their loved ones have unresolved issues as a result of deployment. Here are some symptoms you may see in Soldiers returning from war.

Symptoms that may be visible in someone readjusting to familiar surroundings:

**sleep interrupted**  
**anxiety**  
**hyperalertness**  
**lack of trust**  
**nightmares**  
**intrusive recollections**  
**numbing**  
**guilt associated with an event**  
**loss of interest**  
**distancing**



Internet graphic from <http://www.crystalandhealing.com/stress-therapy.html>

**exaggerated startle response**  
**physical or emotional abuse**

Some of the above symptoms can be expected as normal and should diminish over time. Some symptoms, should they persist, may be handled in a relatively simple fashion ranging from talking with friends, formal debriefings at the unit of assignment, counseling or therapy. Asking questions like, "What is

going on? How does that make you feel? What thoughts are you having?" allow the Soldier a chance to talk out their thoughts and feelings.

Soldiers who continue to experience the symptoms mentioned above for more than thirty days after their return may certainly benefit from counseling or treatment. A protracted occurrence of any of the above symptoms may indicate Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, often occurs from a psychologically traumatic event outside the range of usual human experience, and requires diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel.**

Treatment may be in the form of group counseling sessions to medicines, or a combination of several interventions.

If you or your Soldier wishes to talk about this with someone, try the Army One Source, (800) 464-8107. Confidentiality is respected and if needed they will make a referral. Or, you can contact your unit chaplain, or the Office of the Staff Chaplain, (800) The ARMY, ex. 13938 or the Combat Stress Control officers in the Staff Surgeon's office, ex. 13254, 13255. ♣

# No Nay Sayers in the 88th Infantry Division Association

Story by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office

The 88th Infantry Division Association held its annual reunion September 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup>, the members of the 88th IDA met to vote on many issues involving the future of the association.

The most significant issue to the 88th Regional Readiness Command was whether or not Soldiers of the RRC would be allowed to join the association. The action was passed by a unanimous vote.

There are two major benefits to the action passing. One of those benefits is to the Soldiers now allowed to join. Being able to join the association allows Soldiers to keep the history of the 88th alive, and it gives Soldiers of the 88th a forum to share their experiences and share in the camaraderie that develops when Soldiers come together to fight the nations wars.

Advantage number two is the potential immortality of the association. If the vote had gone the other way the 88th Infantry Division Association would have been forced to disband in the not-so-distant future due to the aging of its members. One of the heads of the association, Col. (retired) William Konze, is now in his 90s.

After the vote was passed, the 88th IDA decided the first person they would grant membership to would be Spc. Keith (Matt) Maupin. Col. James A. Lundell, deputy for management and support, 88th RRC; and Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner, CSM, 88th RRC, were granted membership immediately after.

In fact, Lundell and Werner were also elected to positions on the board for the association within minutes after the vote. Both Lundell and Werner are scheduled to retire from service within the year. However, their service to the 88th as members of the board for the association will keep them involved as Blue Devils for years to come. ♦

## Maj. Gen. David G. Hicks, Chief of Chaplains, Visits 88th RRC

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Susanne Aspley  
88th RRC Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. David G. Hicks, Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Army, recently visited the 88th Regional Readiness Command, Fort Snelling, MN. He was escorted by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel Harrison and Sr. Staff Chaplain Assistant (Master Sgt.) Herman Robinson.

Headquartered at the Pentagon, Hicks supervises the entire Active, Reserve and National Guard Army chaplaincy personnel in the United States. He is principal advisor to the Army chief of staff.

Hicks was promoted to his position on July 29, 2003, which also was the Army Chaplain Corps' 228th anniversary. Prior, Hicks served as the Deputy Chief of Chaplains.

More than 2,200 Active, Reserve and National Guard chaplains from approximately 120 faith groups are serving the US Army worldwide. Currently, there are more than 500 deployed Army Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and the war on terrorism worldwide.

He began his Army career in 1958 at the age of 17, advanced to the rank of an infantry staff sergeant and later joined Army Chaplain Corps in 1974.

Hicks attended Princeton Theological Seminary and after receiving ordination as a Presbyterian minister. He has served as command chap-

lain at U.S. Army Special Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.; V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; and U.S. Army Reserve Europe Command, Heidelberg.

He has a masters of divinity degree from Princeton Seminary, Princeton, N.J., and a master of theology degree from Duke University, Durham, N.C. His is also a graduate of Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. ♦



Maj. Gen. Hicks inside the 88th RRC Meditation Room.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback 88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office





# Decision for Destiny

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office weekend.

Evolution changes the shape and appearance of nearly everything on earth. Small or large, the changes are definite and everlasting. The 88th Infantry Division that fought in World War

I and World War II has, over the years, evolved from the infantry division that liberated Rome into the Army Reserve's 88th Regional Readiness Command – a command that provides trained Soldiers worldwide to protect this nation's interests. Though the missions of the 88th ID and the 88th RRC are very different, it's always important to remember where the 88th came from.

Keeping alive the memory of what the 88th was has been the mission of the 88th Infantry Division Association. The 88th Infantry Division Association has been the staple keeping the members of the 88th ID in touch with each other for more than 60 years. At one time, the association had more than 6000 members. That figure is now just about 2800. The decreasing number of members is threatening the dissolve of the association – the loss of an important part of 88th history.

"The fact is, in another 10 years we won't have enough members to keep having reunions, let alone afford to print our quarterly publication," said William Konze, 88th ID Assoc. member who sits on the board of directors.

Fred Lincoln, a past president of the association which makes him a permanent board member, chairman of the newsletter committee, chairman of the membership committee, and a member of

the Blue Devil Memorial Foundation, said "The merger was brought up (on Sept. 5th, '03) and members of the board spoke favorably about it. The president passed it on to me as membership chairman to explore the suggestion working with Col. Lundell and report to the board at our spring 04 board meeting. There hopefully will be a favorable vote. Changes in our constitution would have to be made and voted on at The General Assembly at our reunion over the next Labor Day

"I am of course favorable to having this come about. It came up during a discussion and a motion to discontinue the 88th Infantry Division Association and the motion was withdrawn.

Konze said, "All the members that I've talked to about the merger between the ID and the RRC are really enthusiastic about it. The thing is, we've all served under the same patch. We're all Blue Devils."

The idea needs only to clear the association's board of directors. Then the association's constitution can be amended to read The 88th Blue Devil Association. All members currently serving the RRC will automatically be members of the association, said Konze. Being a member will entitle the RRC Soldiers to become part of the Blue Devil heritage. Something that fades as members are lost.

"This year ('03) was our 56th consecutive annual reunion," said Konze. "At our reunions we've had the members bringing their children, their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren for years now. We enjoy having the younger crowd around us. It'll be a good thing for this to go through. It'll also be nice if we can get the younger Soldiers to take up some of the planning and accounting roles. I'm 89 years old. I've been a very active member for years."

Col. James A. Lundell (the deputy for management and support for the RRC and, Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Werner (the CSM of the RRC) brought a lot of enthusiasm to the idea, said Konze.

Werner, said, "We've been after the ID association for a long time to do this merger. We've wanted it for a while. We don't want to let that part of our history go. The way they have their by-laws written now, when they're dead – they're dead."

The association would come off the endangered species list by adopting Soldiers from the RRC. The added relief of having more people to handle the responsibilities of planning and maintaining the association is something that Konze said he's looking forward to.

Both commands will have to meet about the roles and responsibilities to bring the idea to reality. A lot of consideration has to be put into issues like who will be doing what in the association, if the 88th ID's magazine "Blue Devil" will still be printed, or if the RRC will take over the name and doing away with the "Blue Devil II" title.

If the plan goes through, and all considerations are satisfied, Blue Devil Soldiers from past and present will have common ground to stand on. The accomplishments of the Soldiers that earned the nickname 'Blue Devils' will not be forgotten, and the 88th family will always continue on keeping its lineage intact. ♦



**Willys Thompson, 88th Infantry Division Association, attended the stamp unveiling. 88th IDA members commonly attend 88th RRC functions.**

# It's good to be a Soldier...

Soldiers of the 395th Ordnance Company, Appleton, Wisc., get a lift compliments of the city to their homecoming at their reserve center.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback, 88th RRC, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office.

## A message from the 88th RRC staff Chaplain regarding the BDA Support Fund Information

The “Blue Devil Support Fund” was established in 2002 by the *Blue Devil Association* (BDA) to provide dollars to assist 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Soldiers, civilians, and their family members throughout this six-state command ... including: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. This 501 (c)(3) organization makes funds available to the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC *Office of the Staff Chaplain* to administer as the financial needs arise.

A Chaplain, unit administrator, or the command leadership validates each request for financial assistance. Upon receipt of documentation, the Staff Chaplain can issue a check ... with no requirement or expectation of paying back.

Each request is kept confidential ... known only by the Chaplain, the recipient and the treasurer of the BDA.

Last year over \$8,000 was disbursed to Soldiers, family members and authorized civilians to assist with food, shelter, outstanding bills, and emergency expenses.

POC: CH (LTC) Daniel E. Harrison  
Office of the Staff Chaplain  
HQ, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command  
506 Roeder Circle

Fort Snelling MN 55111-4009

(612) 713-3938/3936

Daniel.Harrison@us.army.mil ♦

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# Training Targeted at the Top

Story by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
88<sup>th</sup> RRC, Det.1, Public Affairs Office

As early as basic training the youth of today's Army receive training on military equal opportunity (MEO). Soldiers are taught what behaviors are and are not acceptable when it comes to race, religion, gender, color and national origin. As told by Rich Cox, the human relations and MEO specialist for the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command, the youth of the Army, as a whole, have a good grasp on proper behavior in the workplace. Now, Cox and others in the Army Reserve are targeting the senior leadership with training that identifies short comings and possible oversights in behavior.

"Many times senior leaders become so involved in the operations they lose sight of the behavior around them," said Cox. "As with maintenance of equipment, personnel require human maintenance to maintain proficiency. Racist and sexist behavior are all around us, and depending on the individual, and situation, there can be a direct impact on unit readiness and cohesion. Behaviors counter to productivity impact readiness."

It is no exaggeration that readiness will suffer as Cox explained. "Once a complaint of sexism, sexual harassment, racism or any other type discrimination is filed, a split in the unit will occur. The claimant will look to get support from others while the accused does the same saying, 'You believe me, right?' People around them will take sides and cohesion is lost when that happens."

Cox assembled a team of EO professionals to conduct exercises on a level never done before. Mr. Joe Crumpton, United States Army Re-

serve Command MEO Specialist, Maj. JoJo Irby, Staff Judge Advocate and MEO Advisor with the 81<sup>st</sup> RRC, Maj. Kathleen Couillard, Personnel Officer and MEO Advisor, 88<sup>th</sup> RRC and Master Sgt. Eric Dore, Ft. McCoy Post MEO Advisor, made up the team that brought in sergeants major and the senior civilians of the 88<sup>th</sup>'s Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs) for a new approach at MEO training.

MSC senior staffs were providing with training that introduced them to real world discrimination that they may not have been aware existed. The training also shed light on many behaviors and actions that are commonly dismissed but are by definition discriminatory.

Identifying discrimination, then knowing how to put a stop to it will help unit readiness. Dealing with the impact of poor behaviors and actions is all part of human maintenance.

"Commanders should brief their Soldiers about sexism, sexual harassment, and racism – just as they give safety briefings," said Cox. "Why can't a commander look as his/ her Soldiers and say, 'Buckle up, don't drink and drive, and don't sexually harass my Soldiers.'?"

Driving home the point of human maintenance, Cox said, "It is up to every commander to ensure that every piece of equipment is maintained – every truck, every weapon. More importantly, a commander must take the time to maintain every Soldier. Readiness is the end result of Soldiers trained proficiently in working with equipment and each other as one team." ♦

service.

TRICARE Smart users may view, print, e-mail and download copies of all available TRICARE brochures, booklets, handbooks and other marketing and educational products. Another enhancement allows users to subscribe and receive e-mail alerts whenever TRICARE products are changed or updated with new information.

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In the near future, as new materials are developed or reprints of existing marketing and educational materials are made available online, registered subscribers will be able to view and confirm their delivery address and products ordered directly online.

"Our goal for the future is to ensure beneficiaries, customer service representatives and other users have the ability to 'get smart' on TRICARE by having access to these valuable TRICARE-related marketing and educational materials," said Lawhon.

The new and improved TRICARE Smart site has a variety of TRICARE marketing and educational materials for users of the site to view, print or download available at: [www.tricare.osd.mil/smart](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/smart). ♦

## TRICARE SMART Site Improves

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) announces a new and improved "TRICARE Smart" Web site to provide TRICARE beneficiaries, customer service representatives and other users of the site faster and easier access to the collection of up-to-date TRICARE marketing and educational materials available on the TRICARE Web site. "As part of the transition of TRICARE from 12 to three regions-North, South and West-TRICARE Smart site has been completely redesigned with the needs of TRICARE users in mind," said Ms. S. Dian Lawhon, TMA deputy chief for communications and customer

# From the Top

By Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner

It's been a long three years since we've entered this war on terrorism. We've all made scarifies and this will continue. Sacrifices that haven't gone unnoticed and I take this time to extend my heartfelt appreciation to you and your family for all that's been given. We'll have to continue to make sacrifices until this war on terrorism is over and won by the United States. Safeguarding our country's freedom is our mission that's why we exist as an Army.

This Nation has been attacked. We were attacked not by another country, but instead by a cancerous ideology. Today's Blue Devils are answering this Nation's call to arms. Our Blue Devil lineage shows, we've been here before.

At that moment in time, during your mobilization and deployment when you think you can't go on anymore and you ask yourself, "WHY ME?" Stop, and think about those who have gone before you on a deployment

Since World War 1 every Blue Devil generation has served proudly. They knew what it means to be an American Soldier, and you do too.

In World War 1, World War 2, the Vietnam War, the Balkans, and the Gulf War, we continue to redefine who the Blue Devil is, but what remains constant is that sacrifice for God and country. Keep in mind you are never alone in your darkest hour.

In July of last year, we buried our first soldier- killed in combat by enemy fire. Not only was this the 88<sup>th</sup>'s first Soldier killed by hostile fire in the war in Iraq, but this Soldier was also our first Soldier killed in action since World War 2.

Since that July, the 88<sup>th</sup> has suffered the loss of ten more Soldiers killed in combat. These 12 have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Because of their sacrifice, we render military honors

at their funeral, the highest homage of respect our nation can bestow. We will never forget these Blue Devils and we will remember their sacrifice wasn't in vain, but for the preservation of freedom forever.

As Command Sergeant Major, I will never have the opportunity to know or meet all the soldiers in this Command. As this is so with Soldiers who we pay our final respects to. But after time is spent with the family, the funerals graveside honors, the crack of the 3 volleys of rifle fire, and the emotional melody of Taps being played, we know who that Soldier was and it turns into a memory that we will never forget.

Which begs the question, does the family know this?

On the tragic event of a Soldiers death, we being the military funeral honors team, combat stress team, the chaplain, and public affairs; travel to the Soldier's final resting place. With precision, accuracy, and professionalism the family sees our stoic expressions and harmonized ceremonial movements as we pay our final respects. As sterile or detached as someone might perceive the military is at funerals, we, and especially I for this mater, can't go to a funeral without leaving a little of yourself.

By the time this issue of the Blue Devil goes to print, the reality of war will probably set in again with another funeral for another Blue Devil. I pray that I'm wrong, but I know the reality of war.

Train hard before you deploy and always believe in yourself and the Soldiers who serve with you! The Army is going to give you the tools and training to succeed, it is up to you learn and accomplish the mission. I am proud to serve with each of you.

TAKE THE POINT!



## Contents



Equal Opportunity.....	4
It's good to be a Soldier.....	5
Decision for Destiny.....	6
Visit from 2 star Chaplain.....	7
Post Combat Stress.....	8
Leaving a Legacy.....	10

Nothing but the Truth.....	12
Saliman's Smile.....	14
Munitions throught the Mountains..	16
Award Winning Tiger Trainer .....	18
Blue Devils in Italy.....	20
Pulling Strings.....	23
Funeral Honors.....	24



# From the CG's Foxhole

By Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley

## THE COMMANDER'S BATTLE VIEW

This past June, standing on the beaches and battlefields where 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers fought so valiantly to free Italy in World War II, my pride in the heritage and spirit of the Blue Devils was truly profound.

Our 451<sup>st</sup> Band and the 88<sup>th</sup> Honor Guard performed magnificently for hundreds of war veterans, thousands of appreciative attendees, an American Ambassador and two very impressed Presidents (one Italian); all of whom cherished the joyful recognition of hard-won freedoms during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of Rome. That operation, successfully fulfilled on June 4, 1944, was spear-headed by the 88<sup>th</sup> Blue Devils!

A month later, as I met with our brave and dedicated 88<sup>th</sup> RRC Soldiers in the minefields, ammunition depots and guard posts of Afghanistan, that same pride emerged. Today's Blue Devils measure up fully to the professionalism, courage, commitment and sacrifices of The Greatest Generation of 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Warriors.

What our forefathers did with mules and backpacks in the mountains of Italy, we are doing on the roads of Iraq: Winning a difficult and complex war, but not without painful losses.

Fourteen of our Soldiers have now died in combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the first combat-related deaths in our 88<sup>th</sup> ranks since the end of World War



Brig. Gen. Michael W. Beasley greets President George W. Bush while in Italy.

Photo by Master Sgt. Janet Jones  
88th RRC Public Affairs Office

II.

Another three Soldiers have been killed in war-zone accidents. One more, Specialist Matt Maupin, remains captured in Iraq. Over 200 Blue Devil Soldiers have been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat operations.

We remember all of these Soldiers, and their families, in this very special edition of our Command magazine. Read the words carefully, and absorb the meaning and poignancy of the pictures. Most importantly, share in the great pride of knowing that our continuing work for America and those we help in the world is not, and will never be, forgotten.

## BlueDevil II

### 88th Regional Readiness Command Public Affairs Office:

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Maj. Willie Harris, Public Affairs Staff Officer  
Maj. Julie Flom, Public Affairs Staff Officer  
Bill Geddes, Public Affairs Specialist  
Mike Walton, Public Affairs Specialist  
MSG Janet Jones, Public Affairs NCOIC  
Susanne Aspley, Public Affairs Specialist  
Staff Sgt. Chris Farley, Public Affairs NCO  
Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback, Public Affairs Journalist

**Contributions are solicited** and may be sent to: Editor, Blue Devil II, 88th RRC PAO, 506 Roeder Circle, Fort Snelling, MN, 55111-4009. Phone: (612)713-3012. email 88PAO@usarc-emh2.army.mil

### Public Affairs Elements:

318th Public Affairs Detachment (PAOC), Forest Park, Ill.  
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Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback, 88th Regional Readiness Command, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback, 88th Regional Readiness Command, Det. 1, Public Affairs Office.

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"We have given all that was asked..."

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